A

Certaine Sound;

OR,

An Alarm ſounded,

TO THE

Perſecuting Epiſcopalians, in, and about the Cities of *London* & *Weſtminſter*, thoſe Bloody Cities, in many Whoredoms; And to the reſt of that Sect throughout the Nations, who prophanely, bloodily, or maliciouſly, now have, or heretofore have had any hand in perſecuting the Innocent Servants, and Prophets of the Moſt High, for the exerciſe of their pure Conſcience to the Lord God their Creator.

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A certain Sound; or, an Alarm ſounded, to the Perſecuting Epiſcopalians, &c.

TO that Spirit, in the power of the living God of Heaven and Earth, I affirm; that there is an immortal Lilly ſprang up, as alſo an eternal River flowing freely (without money or outward price) through the Nations; the Root of the one being as far out of your reach to deſtroy (though you do dig as deep as Hell) as the immenſe Fountain and everlaſting Current of the other is out of your vultrous ſight, which way to withhold from the heart and conſcience of the truly thirſty: For our Teſtimony in the Light of Jeſus, from that eternal Fountain, is powerful and clear, and ſhall have its full and infallible effect, though now reſiſted by the whole ſeed of evil-doers to the utmoſt of their periſhing ſtrength; and the numberleſs and moſt immerciful Cruelties which you inflict upon the innocent People of God, are ſo far from depreſſing the everlaſting Goſpel which we preach, Us, or our faithful Teſtimony therein and againſt your falſe ways and abominations, that it doth, & ſhall add life & growth to the truth of our for-ever bleſſed and moſt precious Cauſe, and cauſe your ſelves indellibly to be recorded to Poſterity as you are, when the Name of the holy Witneſſes to, & Martyrs for, the Truth of our God ſhall remain as a ſweet-ſmelling ſavour, living for ever, though their Bodies die by your hands. And ſome of our very little ones [now living] ſhall rejoyce in their ſouls before the Lord God of their Fathers, that they were the off-ſpring of a Martyr, or that their parents in any meaſure ſtood faithful to God in this your day of heavy Perſecution. And that I am in the eternal ſight of this, if my God think me worthy, I am ready to ſeal with my Blood, though my Sepulcher, for declaring this Truth, ſhould be on the Bridge and four Gates of your City.

And, as though that accurſed womb of your bloody Cities, to wit, *Newgate*, that now diſmal Peſt-houſe, were not big enough to devour the Sheep of Jeſus your Saviour, in which, as Priſoners for the Truth, at leaſt Forty of his innocent Lambs called *Quakers* have laid down their Lives (through, as is moſt like, the Peſtilential infection of that place) ſince the Lord's juſt hand of Vengeance hath brought it upon theſe your Cities of many Whoredoms, as the beginning of their ſorrows: Beſide, about Sixty of the ſame Royal Seed and Fold, have been Priſoners till death in that one Goal ſince your Act againſt Conſcience was made, alſo ſealing their Teſtimony with their Blood, as became the Martyrs of the Moſt High. And yet, as if all this innocent Blood, with the reſt of your innumerable Impriſonments, Blows, and Bruiſes, unjuſt Fining, Præmuniring, Confiſcating of Eſtates, making Widows and Fatherleſs, ruining Families, frequent ſhedding our Blood in your Streets and Canels, at our holy Meetings, *&c.* were not enough even to implore as it were Gods further Vengeance upon your heads, † you drag and drive from that your Goale of *Newgate* at one time, * to the Water-ſide, and there force into a Barge, Boat, or Boats, Fifty four of the Servants of your Creator, from thence hurry towards an old ſorry rotten Ship, which was ordered to receive & tranſport them beyond the Seas, like Slaves and Vagabonds, for no other offence given to you, on their parts, but only ſerving the living God according to his moſt holy way: to which bad Veſſel ſide theſe freeborn Innocents being come, and not having freedom in the Lord, at the command of your Goalers and their

Accom-

† *When as the Blood of one innocent man is fully able to overthrow a Nation, much more a hundred, two prophane ſuperſtitious and hypocritical Cities.*

* *Beſides at three other times very Lately before you dragg'd out of that Goal, and in like manner forced on ſhipboard, eighteen innocent true men, called* Quakers; *whereof one of them, through your moſt ſavage uſage, immediately as you had forced him on Shipboard, fell down upon the deck, and ſoon after dyed.*

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Accomplices, voluntarily or actively to go in to the † Ship themselves, thereby to acknowledge a crime, or that criminal, which God, in the Law of his Christ our Redeemer, allows (to wit) their meeting often together to wait, & call upon his most holy Name in Spirit and Truth, without restriction of time, place or number; for obeying this Royal Law of God, conferr'd on the Universe in the Messias, our Immanuel, the absolute Supream and alone Head of our Church, and disobeying your Edict to the contrary, they are sentenced to Banishment; I say, because of this, with a good conscience, they could not voluntarily go into the Ship, and consent to their own unnatural, aswel as unlawful, Banishment and Slavery. The Souldiers, and some of the superactive baser sort (of whom *Paul* complained) that were imployed by you to drive and hale the Innocent, like Sheep to your slaughter (who resisted them not) without tenderness or contrition, by way of scorn, cryed, *Throw out the Tackle, throw out the Tackle, that we may hale up the Kings Goods:* which accordingly they did, fastening it about the Bodies of the Innocent, and so slung up into the Ship the Lambs of the living God, as they do Cattel and other Lading: who indeed, as found faithful (notwithstanding the derision of the *Ishmaels* of this age) are the good and peculiar Treasure of the KING of Kings, for whose sake earthly Kings and Rulers have, and again will be rebuked in the day of further Revelation of his most terrible Indignation, which hastens.

† *In which one among your selves (in no mean authority) said, he would not sail to* Gravesend *in, to have her.*

Being thus inhumanely, and utterly contrary to the Law of this Land, forced on Shipboard; their Lodging (such as it was) was appointed under a base low Deck, where they were ramm'd together like other Stowage; and this very bad Ship being bulgy, leaky, or the like, the Water came in upon them, and ran frequently under them where they lay: by which means, and the suffocatious heat that might arise through their being so cramb'd together (it's like) the Pestilence encreased among them, whereof at least *Twenty seven* of the

Bodies

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Bodies of these [so misused] *fifty four* are dead. And notwithstanding the Ship is yet unsailed, riding at anchor in the River of *Thames*, Gods just judgment having overtaken her Master, who was about three moneths since clapt up in prison for debt, the Mate having left him and the Ship, several of the Mariners being dead of the Pestilence, others of them come away, whether convinced of the unlawfulness of their undertaking, I shall not here determine, having not spoken with the men face to face; but of this I am certainly enformed, That the more ruffinlier sort, who stayed behind, did, or threatned to fire Guns after them, when they left the Ship and came on Shore: this being put altogether, *Viz.* what has befallen the Ship-Master, his Mate leaving him, the death of several of the Mariners, and some of them forsaking the rest, the Ship as yet unable to sail, having been clear'd at the Custom-house about a Quarter of a year since; Who sees not the hand of God against these accursed undertakings? Yet so blind, or rather wilfully wicked you are, that I have not heard that any one, in considerable authority, hath so much as endeavoured that the rest of these, yet living Innocents, might be released from their, so unjust, cruel Bondage and Banishment; but on the contrary, I have heard some in their stiffneckedness blasphemously say, *Cannot your God defend you from the Plague, in Prison, out of Prison, at Sea or Land?* &c.

To such I plainly answer, as a living man yet upon the Earth; *My God can preserve me if he please, and I do believe in my heart will, if it be for his glory, and that he hath any further service for me to do among ye; if not, his eternal will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven.* And I am as fully assured, that if it had stood with his most holy will, and that in his uncomprehensible wisdom he had seen it meet, to have made those Innocents further or otherwise more eminently serviceable to Him, and his Truth upon the Earth, He could and would have delivered them out of your hands, or in your hands, under this your most vile usage, preserved them from your drinking their innocent bloud; but then, if not for this, and such like doings, how should the measure of your iniquities

be

be filled up? However, we have not at any time preached or affirmed, that our outward bodies were immortal, but liable, for the confirmation of our immortal Testimony, even to suffer by your Spirit and Generation much outward misery, unnatural cruelties, death, and what not; as was our blessed Saviour, his holy Disciples and Followers by those Jews and Monarchs of Old, in whose dayes they appeared on the Earth; and they were as obnoxious and odious to their then Hierarchy & Monarchy as the right true Christian man, called *Quaker*, is now to yours; and all your Jewish usage of us his now Disciples and Servants, we as really feel, as he and his did theirs. Nevertheless, were I sure to dye many deaths by your hands, whilst I continue in Gods fear, I cannot fear you, because you are so very wicked and unjust:

But,

If you could the Soul destroy, as well as th' Body kill;
You were indeed then much *to be fear'd for doing ill.*

And that it hath pleased the infinite wise God that in this common calamity, which is come upon the Nation because of your unparalleld abominations (and that no flesh may arise to glory in his sight) some of our bodies who have not sin'd with you, fall with, or rather by you, do not therefore rejoyce as the former Jews (uncircumcised in heart and ears) did, over Jesus the just one, and the then holy People that believed in his testimony; saying, *That he was as one smitten or forsaken. He that hath saved others let him now save himself.* And that his good Apostle was *a perverter of their Laws; a sower of Sedititon; a turner of the world upside down, &c.* I say, do not hereby stiffen your necks, nor strengthen your ungodly hands against the Lord and his Anointed, because the outward Bodies of the Godly and Prophane dye alike: for whenthey (the former Jews) thus drank innocent blood, and magnified themselves against the innocent and righteous, then loe their destruction was nigh; and behold yours slumbers not, and the dregs of the Cup, without mixture of pitty, you shall as surely drink at the hands of our God, as you now Torment, Banish, and drink the Bloud of

us his People and Servants. And alas, poor animals, for what you can in the mean time do againſt our Rock, or us in him; You do but in your moſt impetuous wills fight with the wind, and in very great confuſion beat the air of your own imaginations; for we know right well you are limited by him whoſe Seed you would limit. And I ſenſibly declare unto you, by the authority, and in the power of the living God, the Root of that Lilly or Vine from which we ſprang up, into which by the grace of his Eternal Love we are ingrafted, and in which, through infinite mercy, we grow and proſper in the Lord, cannot be prevailed againſt; and in the end you will as ſurely feel and find it ſo, as ever you were born. For the Mountain of the Houſe of our God, is, muſt, and ſhall be eſtabliſhed upon the Top of all unholy Mountains whatſoever. And have you not heard, that ever ſince we were a People, we have carried our Lives in our hands? And is it not manifeſtly ſeen and known to all men now living in theſe Nations, who are not wilfully blind, that through the God of our Life that ſtrengthens us, we have not valued our Liberties, outward Eſtates, Preferments, even Lives and all, to the death, in compariſon of our *Faithful Teſtimony* for Gods immortal and moſt glorious Truth, before you, that now are, were in outward Power? And have we not in this your day of *thrice woful and heavy Perſecution*, again and again confirmed and ſealed this our Teſtimony with our blood, and the purely offering up of all that hath been near and dear unto us as men? And is there not ſo much as one conſiderate conſiderable *Gamaliel* among you, to conſider theſe things? However, let not the prophane, ſo much as think in their dark ſenſuality, who were never known of themſelves, to conquer any thing, but themſelves with Drink, Whordoms, Violences, Oathes, and ſuch like Beſtialities, to overcome us who believe and walk in the Light, who have taken up the Croſs of Chriſt Jeſus for our Armour, in which we ſenſibly feel the power of God leading to, and ſurrounding us in his ſalvation. Nay, nay, be it known unto you all, that do but ſo much as think or wiſh ill to *Iſrael* this day, there are among us who in the power of the Lamb are more than

Conquerors over whatſoever it's poſſible for you to ſay, do, or think to do againſt us for Truth: and unto ſuch a ſtrange thing cannot befal, neither any evil tidings from you affright them, becauſe we fear not as you fear, neither hope as you hope; for while we live, we love to ſerve our Creator, chuſing gladly to obey the motions and commands of the Law of his Spirit, written in our hearts, rather than ſo much as taſte of the pleaſures, or rather bondage, of your not to be paralleled wickedneſſes, wch ſhal laſt you but for a ſeaſon (mark that) ſo that when he who gave us breath (creating us and you to ſerve and obey him) is pleaſed to call for our ſouls, ſtanding in his fear (out of your falſe fear, vain hope and glory) we are ready with joy and gladneſs to anſwer to his command, who ſaith, *Come ye bleſſed, enter into eternal reſt, prepared for the Lambs of the fold, &c.* But with the Swearer, Lyer, Whoremonger, Superſtitious, Idolater, and ungodly prophane Perſecutor of Gods Innocent Flock, it cannot be ſo; for they ſhall then dread (though they now make merry over the Lords Witneſs and Witneſſes) that moſt dreadful and irrevocable malediction, *Go ye curſed*; yea, when ſuch come to dye, the Light of Chriſt Jeſus (with which every man is enlightned that comes into the World) ſhall ariſe in the Conſcience to the utter condemnation of all thoſe who in their life-time have deſpiſed or diſobeyed it. Then ſhall the betrayers of the Juſt, and hard-hearted impriſoners of the innocent to death, for obeying it, know what it is to be a *Judas* or a *Pharaoh*: Then ſhall the worldly-wiſe and rich, with the falſe divining Hireling, their frontier and leader, who ſerpent-like, to ſave ſelf, have bowed to, and even twiſted about every green and dry tree, that in the deceit hath ſtood up, feel the Parable of *Dives*, and know that *Lazarus* the poor, poor in Spirit, in the faithfulneſs, is the Seed that doth and muſt inherit.

Now if you be men, and would be deemed in any meaſure rational to poſterity, for what you do, & have done againſt us, poſitively declare what's the evil theſe People called *Quakers*, as a people, have done, or if you have ought againſt them, but for their worſhipping the living God of Heaven and Earth, in Spirit, Truth, and Righteouſneſs: nay farther, if

they have left undone any thing that they ought to have done; in the Spirit of God, and according to the Scriptures of Truth, make it appear: for our souls delight to be, and are subject to the higher, or highest power: and in my heart I intend most willingly, and for conscience sake, actively to be obedient to every Ordinance of man, which is, or shall be made for the Lords sake; I say, by plain Scripture, command of Jesus our Lord, or pure example from his holy Apostles, detect our principle and practice if you can; and without supposition or false allegation, orderly set forth to the world what detriment we have brought upon the *good People* of these Nations, since it pleased the Lord first to raise us up therein; and also what the evil is that we have done you, who have thus spilt and drank our blood without Mercy. Have we done ought against you, except reprove you for your rending and damming, Superstition and Idolatry, prophane and unmanly, as well as antichristian Persecution, with the rest of your superabounding evils and uncleanesses, in which you wallow, that you might repent, amend your lives and be saved? I say again, produce your charge against us under your hands, plainly and directly setting forth and declaring matter of Fact only, without allegation, dubious supposition, or any manner of clandestine trick or intreague of State-Policy, dissonant to Scripture, or forreign to the matter; that it may be transmitted to the ends of the earth, or at least so far as your spirit hath traduced, or made odious, us, or our Principle; that all reasonable and unprejudiced people in the world, may judge whether it bear in it cause enough thus to kill us in your Goals and Holes, force and banish us out of our Nation, where of we are as free-born as your selves. And when you have thus manifestly, plainly and publickly emitted your charge into the world, then lay by your Swords, Clubs, Goals, and ungodly Laws, and bring forth your Priests also, (with whom, if not for whom you thus engage Soul and Body) and let them publickly, thorowly, and equally dispute your and their Religion, and what they can *vive voce*, face to face say, or rather prove against us, or our Principle in Religion, who in the Spirit of Truth serve and

fear,

fear the Lord, by you called *Quakers*. I am ſure, if they (your Prieſts) be ſpiritual men, or but ſo much as ſpiritually minded, it cannot be denyed on their parts: And this would be a good way to try Spirits, and for you and them to try and hear Truth, and be tryed by it (and true Religion is a Spiritual, not a State matter) and whoſo is found in the Error, let the ſmooth ſtone of *David* be ſlang into their hearts by the hand of a holy man to convince, and the Sword of the Lord run through and through them, as his moſt holy Spirit ſhall give utterance. And if to that they will not ſubmit, leave it to the Lord of the Harveſt; for further, or contrary to this, no Man, or Power upon Earth, hath Commiſſion from Chriſt Jeſus to act.

So conſider well what Church you are of, and whoſe Servants and Miniſters you are, that inſtigate the Rulers (who are too apt of themſelves) to impriſon and hew down the Innocent with carnal ſwords, promp and help Parliaments to make Laws againſt us, move the inferiour Magiſtrates to execute them, and cauſe diſſolute Souldiers to tear us out of our holy Meetings, from thence drag and drive us into your Goals and Dungeons, there to be kept till Baniſhment or Death; whereby (in the Curſe) you rend aſſunder the endeared Husband from the tender and faithfull Wife, (whom God hath joyned together) diſlocating the bleſſed Child from the righteous Parent, the faithful Servant from his honeſt Maſter, and calling the Maſter from the Servant, *&c.* If this be Chriſtian or Apoſtolical, I know not what is Antichriſtian and Diabolical. Moſt certain I am, Precept from Chriſt, Example from his Apoſtles, or the leaſt ſeeming veſtage in any of their Writings for ſuch doings you cannot pretend, and the right generous Engliſh Spirit abhors ſuch *Salvagiſm* as Hell. Then in this matter who are you like, or to whom may I compare you but your ſelves? Except in that of your Oaths of *Alleageance* and *Supreamacy*, you run parallel with the *Roman Epiſcopalians* in the late *Marian Perſecution*, with the *Sacrament of their Altar*; the one they uſed as a *Roman Gin* againſt the then Martyrs, the other you impoſe as an *Antichriſtian Snare* upon Us, the now

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obeyers of the true Christ, who saith, *Swear not at all, &c.* For often-times when neither your selves, your late made cruel Edicts, nor the Multitude, (who for the most part have been for you, against us) can raise seeming plausible matter enough against the truly Innocent, to ensnare and incasserate their persons, Then I have often seen and observed your last subterfuge to be, (viz.) *O but will you take the Oath of Alleageance!* and sometimes it's, *Will you take the Oaths of Alleagiance and Supremacy?* † whenas for pure Conscience-sake we who profess *Christianity*, and are *Christians in deed*, as wel as *in words*, cannot, may not, dare not swear, by Heaven, Earth, Evangelists, or any other Oath whatsoever, because the promised Messiah, and performed Oath of God, of whom Oaths under the Law were a Type, hath commanded us in expres's words, *But I say unto you, Swear not at all; but let your yea, be yea, and your nay, nay, &c.* and his Apostle *James* saith, *Above all things, my Brethren, swear not* *: So that being absolutely commanded by the Son of God, and precautioned, or rather confirmed by his good Apostle, whose indispensable Commands and Doctrine should be Catholick; however, to us that are not our own, but bought and redeemed

† *For the denyal of both, or either, great are the numbers of us that have been imprisoned, even several to Death; and yet I have not known any* Roman Catholick *that hath suffered either Imprisonment, or so much as loss of Preferment* [*among you*] *for refusing the latter, whenas they do acknowledge a forreign Head, and he is but a man: and it is as well known that we Christians do, nor ever did acknowledge any other Head of our Church but* CHRIST *alone; so that if I were of an aggravating spirit, I might say, Why Rs, and not the Papists? But it's not my principle to irritate or stir up any against another to ease my self; but I feel who you favour and who you hate.*

* *This could not be meant prophane swearing, for under the Law that was forbidden, viz.* Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; *but Judicial swearing was by the Law of* Moses *allowed.*

redeemed with a price, even the Blood of our immaculate Lord, it sufficeth; and therefore we dare not, may not turn his immortal Law behind our backs, nor tread his most precious Blood under our feet. And I do believe in my heart, most of you cannot but know before-hand, even before you offer us an Oath, that it is our avowed Principle *not to swear at all*; and we dare not assume that unholy liberty, or accursed dispensation, to break that most sacred, most royal, and indispensible Law of our Redeemer; as many of you lately did for your ungodly ends, when against your Consciences, and against your earthly King, you sware, *To be true and faithful to the Commonwealth, as it was then established, without King or House of Lords.* Nay, with us it is nothing so; for the truly Faithful most gladly suffer the loss of all, even to the Death, rather than against their Conscience break one *iota* of their KING of Kings Command; and he that wilfully breaks one, is guilty of all: even so he that is not faithful in a little, shall never be made a Ruler in much. So that I cannot say, for what you do against us, (as also against your own souls and consciences) as Christ said to the old *Jews*, *You know not what you do:* but I can truly say, You know not, or at least wisely consider not what will follow for these your most unreasonable outrages.

Indeed, most of our present Adversaries are men of Oaths, much addicted to Swearing and Cursing; for, and under which the *good People* of the Land do bitterly mourn, and they themselves shall howl, though at the present they trample under their feet, as a thing of nought, the Name of our God, imploring him often to damn and sink them; insulting over his Innocent Seed, plowing broad, deep and most inhumane furrows on the backs of his righteous People at their pleasure, contrary to all Law and good Reason: Not less than five or six thousand of us, called *Quakers*, imprisoned at a time, since you called *Episcopal Protestants* came into outward power.

Thus have you killed us all your day long, and exposed to outward ruine the Families of the Faithful in the Land

Land, making many Widows, oppressing their Fatherless, even as it were chopping them and theirs in pieces, as flesh for your Cauldron, according to the Edict of your own hearts lust; yet *in all this you are no Conquerours*; and which is far worse, *for all this you shall come to Judgment*: For the Mower saith, *All flesh is grass*; And, *accursed is the man that trusteth in man, or maketh flesh his arm.*

And, Lord, if what's already done, and in their hearts to do, be not enough to fill the measure up of those, who on thy holy People, for their pure Conscience, do impose. On me lay on thy pondrous weight, give me but strength to bear; permit them, Lord, my blood to drink, and flesh to tear. Yet, Lord, I'm not ith' haste, but on thy holy leisure cry, How long, how long! O Lord my God, most holy, just, and high. For, Lord, I know deliverance to thy Seed, nor evil to the City can be done, Good or Vengeance wrought thereon, but by thy holy self alone. Therefore freely, and with all my heart, the manner, way, and *final* disquisition of these things I leave to thee, my God, who art the King of Kings, transmuter and establisher of all things.

Vita, Veritate omniaq.

E. B.

Vita

THE END.

sit veritate omnium

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